

MINUTES
WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, December 11, 2017
WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL, ROOM 400

Board Members in attendance: Daniel Firestone, Ken Livingston, MaryEllen Thibodeau, Daniel Johnson, Scott Franklin, Laurie Silverman, Jim Greene. Absent were Jill Morawski and Sandy Fry.

There were approximately 14 people in attendance. A quorum of the West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission was present.

Announcement: Next Meeting January 8th, 2018

- 1) Pedestrian Initiatives, MaryEllen discussed filling in sidewalk gaps (areas without sidewalk that break a connection), and Maryellen requested looking for small gaps or crosswalk. Scott Franklin, reported on Duane Martin response to traffic crosswalks. Duane mentioned the sidewalk projects in cue and the feasibility of smaller project requests
- 2) Update on Legislative Action Committee, on behalf of Jill Morawski, Scott Franklin updated on meetings attended. Daniel Johnson attended a recent Planning and Zoning meeting with no updates or matters that concerned the commission.
- 3) Update on Local Recreational Bike Routes. Scott Franklin reported from the town engineers. The engineers drove the three routes for feasibility. The commission hopes to launch the routes for bicycle usage in Spring of 2018.
- 4) West Hartford Public Schools Bike Safety Initiative. Scott Franklin met with Helen Rubino Turco from West Hartford community and leisure services. The commission feels the need to increase bike and pedestrian safety education in the town schools. An 8th grade pilot program is being worked on by Lisa Daily director of athletics for West Hartford Public Schools. Scott Franklin reported on a conversation with Sandy Hole from Windsor, which runs a 4th grade bicycle curriculum and is putting together a presentation. The preliminary meeting will be in South Windsor on a date TBD
- 5) Update on N Main St Calming Initiative, MaryEllen reported on recent news coverage by Fox61 Jenna DeAngelo. A walk with Matt Hart is scheduled for December 14th 2017 8:30am, those looking to attend please contact MaryEllen Thibodeau.
- 6) Discussed Town Staff and Police Officer serving on Commission. Scott noted that other pedestrian and bicycle commission do not have town staff serving on the appointed committee. The commission would like ex-officio town members to attend our meetings regularly
- 7) New Business
 - a. Strategic Plan
 - b. Community Connectivity grant issue- due to budget meetings the grant is on hold, as a result of the recently passed state budget.
 - c. The current Plan of Conservation and Development plan expires 2019. No action on a new plan will occur for several months
 - d. League of American Cyclists National Bike Summit 03/05 – 03/07
 - e. Bike Repair Stand – Ethan Franklin reported these stands cost approximately \$1000 per unit
 - i. The question raised would be where to put it.
 - ii. Does it have publicity opportunity
 - f. West Hartford How to Festival – 3/24/18
 - i. Bicycle related program and demonstration for the festival
 - ii. Suggested either tire changing station or helmet fittings.
 - g. North American Handmade bicycle show February 16th – 18th
 - h. Traffic Report from North Main Street, Mountain Road, and Trout Brook was presented
 - i. Federal Highway administration has studies on road diet feasibility
 - ii. Request for town to comment on the study and their perspective
 - i. Jim Greene suggested re-hosting a discover ride in 2018
 - j. Daniel Johnson requested time in the January meeting to discuss agenda and strategy for commission in 2018

- k. Bicycle Friendly renewal application homework was submitted.

Bike West Hartford

- Center Streets, need to raise funds and building sponsorships
 - o August 26th Center Streets Event 10am-1pm
- Dan Firestone updated on Cycling Without Age, limited rides have been given due to weather, trailer has not yet been registered

Daniel Johnson, Board Member
West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission